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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. HUSSEIN PESSIMISTIC ON MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS

KING HUSSEIN PAINTED A DARK PICTURE IN TALKS ON THE
MIDDLE EAST WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN DURING HIS JUST-CONCLUDED VISIT TO BRITAIN.
EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN WAS CONCERNED BY WHAT
HE SAW AS:

--A DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SYRIA;

--INCREASING HARD-LINE SENTIMENT IN ISRAEL; AND

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--OVER-OPTIMISM IN EGYPT REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR A
PEACE SETTLEMENT.

HUSSEIN ALSO TOLD THE BRITISH HE FAVORED AN ATTEMPT AT A
COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN A
STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. HE SAID IF THE OTHER ARABS FULLY

SUPPORTED A SINGLE, UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION WITH FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES, THE SYRIANS WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO OPPOSE IT.

HE ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO A TERRITORY OF THEIR OWN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OWEN IS IMPRESSED WITH THE ROLE PLAYED BY OUR SINAI MISSION, BELIEVES ANY FUTURE SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST BANK OR THE GOLAN WILL REQUIRE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE A BRIEFING ON IT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. (SECRET) LONDON 3788, 3/7 (EXDIS).

2. CALLAGHAN MAY PRESS US TO STAY IN ILO

BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS PRESIDENT CYRIL PLANT TOLD OUR MISSION IN GENEVA HE BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN WILL URGE THE PRESIDENT AND AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY TO KEEP THE US IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION DURING HIS VISIT HERE MARCH 10-12. PLANT HAS SENT CALLAGHAN A BRIEFING PAPER ARGUING THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE ISSUES OUTLINED IN OUR NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE RECONSIDER. PLANT NOTED THAT ON MARCH 3 THE ILO VOTED TO:

--CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOLLOW-UP OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL; AND

--ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE IRRELEVANT
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POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

THE MISSION BELIEVES CALLAGHAN WILL FOLLOW PLANT'S ADVICE ON THE ILO, RECALLING THAT HE SHOWED GREAT SENSITIVITY TO TUC INTERESTS DURING THE FIRST US DEMARCHE ON ILO POLICY ONE YEAR AGO. (CONFIDENTIAL) GENEVA 1647, 3/7 (LIMDIS).

3. WILLS VISIT: WHAT TO EXPECT

EMBASSY GEORGETOWN BELIEVES THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS TO WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY COULD MARK A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, THOUGH GUYANA IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ITS SOCIALIST ORIENTATION OR ITS FRIENDLINESS WITH CUBA AND THE USSR. WILLS TOLD CHARGE BLACKEN HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO SEEK BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US, AND BLACKEN BELIEVES HE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN:

--EXPLICIT ASSURANCE THAT THE US WANTS BETTER RELA-

TIONS;

--REAFFIRMATION THAT THE US WILL NOT TAKE SIDES IN
ANY GUYANESE BORDER DISPUTES;

--REASSURANCE ABOUT ALLEGED CIA "DESTABILIZATION"
ACTIVITIES;

--INDICATIONS THAT THE US MIGHT SUPPORT GUYANA'S BID
FOR OAS MEMBERSHIP; AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY,

--ASSURANCES THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE AND INCREASE
DIRECT AND BILATERAL AID.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: WILLIS PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON
ESTABLISHING GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS DURING THIS VISIT,
AND HAS A LARGE PERSONAL STAKE IN BEING ABLE TO SHOW ON
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HIS RETURN TO GUYANA THAT HE WAS WELL RECEIVED IN WASH-
INGTON. THE WARMTH AND MANNER OF HIS RECEPTION MAY BE AS
IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT AS THE SUBSTANTIVE ASSURANCES
THAT CAN OR CANNOT BE MADE. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN
468 AND 469 (LIMDIS).

4. SISMIK TO RETURN TO THE FRAY?

SEVERAL TURKISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE SISMIK
WILL SOON RESUME OPERATIONS AND IS SCHEDULED TO ENTER THE
AEGEAN LATE IN APRIL. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED
MARCH 6 THAT THE SHIP WOULD SET SAIL WITHIN A MONTH, BUT
DID NOT SAY WHERE IT WOULD OPERATE. HOWEVER, FOREIGN
MINISTRY CHIEF OF AEGEAN AND LOS AFFAIRS TURMEN TOLD
EMBASSY ANKARA MARCH 7 THAT TURKEY HAD NO PLANS TO SEND
THE SISMIK INTO THE AEGEAN "AS LONG AS THE BERN AGREEMENT
REMAINS IN FORCE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE UNSTATED IMPLICATION OF TURMEN'S
ASSURANCE IS THAT TURKEY WOULD CONSIDER THE BERN AGREEMENT
NULL AND VOID IF GREECE DOES NOT AGREE TO SUBSTANTIVE
NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEXT ROUND OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
TALKS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ANKARA 1663, 3/7.

5. TRUDEAU'S POPULARITY ON THE UPSWING

RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BEFORE PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON SHOW A DRAMATIC
INCREASE IN HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY. THE LATEST POLL
SHOWS TRUDEAU THE CHOICE OF 43 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE
COMPARED TO OPPOSITION LEADER CLARK'S 30 PERCENT, WHILE

LAST SEPTEMBER THE SAME POLL SHOWED TRUDEAU TRAILING CLARK BY 28 TO 36 PERCENT.

EMBASSY OTTAWA COMMENT: THIS TURNABOUT IS ESSENTIALLY DUE TO:

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--A GROWING FEELING THAT TRUDEAU IS THE BEST QUALIFIED PERSON TO THWART THE QUEBEC SEPARATIST THREAT; AND

--CLARK'S INABILITY, AFTER ONE YEAR AS OPPOSITION LEADER, TO DEVELOP CHARISMA OR A LEADERSHIP IMAGE.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES PRESSURE WILL MOUNT FOR TRUDEAU TO CALL AN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION IF THE NEXT POLL PITTING PARTY AGAINST PARTY SHOWS THE LIBERALS CLOSING THE GAP. (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 1360,3/7.

6. SPAIN: EUROCOMMUNIST SUMMIT NO HELP TO PCE

EMBASSY MADRID BELIEVES THE "EUROCOMMUNIST SUMMIT" DID LITTLE TO ADVANCE THE LONG-TERM GOAL OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) TO WIN ACCEPTANCE AS A GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THOUGH IT HELPED UNDERSCORE THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS BECOME AN OVERT POLITICAL PARTICIPANT. PCE LEADER CARRILLO WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE BERLINGUER AND MARCHAIS TO GO AS FAR AS HE HOPED IN DISTANCING EURO-COMMUNISM FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE SUMMIT'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS REINFORCED SPANISH DISTRUST. IN ANY CASE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE PCE AS A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY. (CONFIDENTIAL) 1716 MADRID 3/7.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY, SISMIK II R/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE050790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MCCORMICK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-0372
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770381/aaaacttq.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8324febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PORG, PLOS, PGOV, PINT, JO, UK, US, GY, TU, GR, CA, SP, ILO, (HUSSEIN I), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (WILLS, FREDERICK R), (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELIOT)
To: JCS DOD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8324febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009